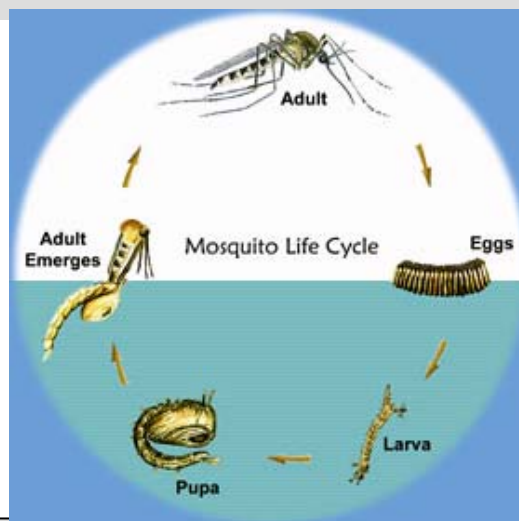


Just the Facts...

The most effective way to control mosquitoes around the home is to find and eliminate breeding sites. All mosquitoes pass through four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The first three stages must have water for development. After the eggs hatch, the larval stage begins. Mosquito larvae are often called “wrigglers.” Wrigglers are most commonly seen just below the surface of the water. The larvae feed on microorganisms found in the water and they grow rapidly. The mature larvae transform into pupae. Mosquito pupae are also quite active and are often called “tumblers” because of their tumbling motion in water when disturbed. After a few days the pupae transform into adults.

Mosquito Control Around the Home



Homeowners can take the following steps to prevent mosquito breeding on their property:

(The best option for mosquito control is to target the larval stage. The larval stage develops in water.)



Ensure that garbage cans and other receptacles have tight fitting lids to prevent accumulation of rainwater.



Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, or any other items that can hold water. Pay particular attention to old tires.



Remove standing water that may accumulate on the property (e.g., lawn ornaments, flower pots, etc.).



If you have a swimming pool or spa, keep it chlorinated. If not in use, cover. Make sure that water does not collect on the cover.



Empty and refresh pet water dishes, watering troughs and birdbaths at least once a week.



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Clean debris from rain gutters, and remove any standing water under or around structures or on flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or puddles that result in puddles.





Empty children's wading pools immediately after use.



Stock ornamental pools and ponds with *Gambusia affinis* ("Mosquito Fish"). Contact your local health department or mosquito abatement district for information on acquiring these fish.



Store small boats upside down. Cover large boats. Make sure the drain plug is removed so water can drain out of the boat. Make sure water does not collect on the cover.

Adult Mosquito Control

- Keep adult mosquitoes out of the home by using screens on doors and windows.
- Adult mosquitoes rest on weeds and other vegetation. Homeowners can reduce the number of areas where adult mosquitoes rest by removing brushy areas from around structures and regularly mowing the lawn.
- Use insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET on exposed skin if you are working or playing in mosquito infested areas. In addition, permethrin repellent applied to clothing will prevent mosquitoes from biting through the fabric.

MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

In many instances, what appears to be a mosquito may actually be another type of insect. **Chironomid midges** are the most widespread and numerous insects resembling mosquitoes. Adult chironomid midges are commonly observed flying in swarms or "clouds." Although these midges do not bite, they can be very annoying. **Crane flies**, often mistaken as very large mosquitoes, are also non-biting insects that pose no risk to you or your family. **Black flies** which are common in some parts of the country are usually a little smaller than mosquitoes, but have much stouter bodies and much shorter legs. They inflict painful bites and are sometimes mistaken as gnats or mosquitoes.



CRANE FLY

- Larger than a mosquito
- Breeds in moist soil or water
- Cannot bite



CHIRONOMID MIDGE

- Similar in size to a mosquito
- Breeds in similar habitats as mosquitoes
- Cannot bite



BLACK FLY

- Slightly smaller than a mosquito, with stout body and short legs
- Breeds in flowing streams and rivers
- Painful bite